# Studies of particular languages

**73-10** **Gyurko, Lanin A.** Zimmer's theory of affixal negation and some factors influencing productivity. *Linguistics* (The Hague), **80** (1972), 28–43.

A summary is given of Zimmer's study, 'Affixal negation in English and other languages: an investigation of restricted productivity,' which appeared in Supplement to *Word 20:2 (Monograph 5)*, (1964). His eclectic approach is emphasized, combining a recognition of the productivity of some patterns with an acknowledgement of the speaker's habits of learning and familiarity with morphological forms. Subjective factors of the latter kind do not lend themselves to a generative analysis. [Details are given of the discussion of prefixes in English, French, German and Russian.] The author comments on Zimmer's views on the productivity classification of English negative prefixes, and adds at many points to the arguments quoted. He refers to the difficulty of carrying out substantial acceptability tests because a combination of fatigue and familiarity will lead to easier acceptance of new forms. **420 ADN AKD**

**73-11** **Lenhardtová, Lýdia.** Rozbor niektorých typických chýb slovenských žiakov pri rozlišovaní anglických foném. [An analysis of some typical errors made by Slovak students in discriminating English phonemes.] *Cizí jazyky ve škole* (Prague), **15**, 10 (1971/2), 440–51.

The analysis is based on the results of a tape-recorded comprehension test given to 250 Slovak intermediate students of English (whose average age was seventeen) in three selective higher secondary schools in Bratislava. [The results of a test of discriminatory perception of five pairs of English phonemes (according to RP

**9**

standard) are set out in detail.] The most difficult phonemic pairs for perceptual discrimination are those in which both members occur as allophones in the phonemics of Slovak, but which are differently distributed (/n/–/ŋ/, /v/–/w/). [Details are given of other pairs where one member does not occur at all in the Slovak phonemic system.] The results of the enquiry are compared with those of an identical study in which Czech students were tested. Many differences seem to be due to variants in testing procedures.

**420 EHM EMS AJT 943.7**

**73–12    Levin, Saul.** Non-paradigmatic forms: suppletion or pre-emption ? *Foundations of language* (Dordrecht), **8**, 3 (1972), 346–59.

The term 'suppletion', used in the sense of filling in a gap, misrepresents a phenomenon found in many languages. It is a term that would be better used for the bias in English towards forming comparative adjectives with *more* instead of using suffixation.

Contrasts such as that between *good* and *better* exist in unrelated languages and are quite different from the previous case since no alternative exists for the anomalous form. There are phonetic and semantic causes for the pre-emption of a particular form. [Examples given from various languages.]

Items in the foreground of vocabulary are not required to conform to a paradigm, since they are drawn from various sources according to need and experience. [Examples.] Systematization in a language is subject to the limits set by the psychology of the speakers and by their reaction to the inherited vocabulary and to diverse experience.
**420 AKT**

# FRENCH

**73–13    Morin, Yves Ch.** The phonology of echo-words in French. *Language* (Baltimore, Md), **48**, 1 (1972), 97–108.

Echo-words, or reduplicated roots, form an autonomous system within the language. The class is defined and its function in French explained as chiefly onomatopoeic or diminutive [examples]. The history of these words is recounted briefly, with reference to other languages, and their register discussed [examples given of use as impertinence, irony or insult]. The distribution of segments in echo-words is described.

Echo-words are not only a homogeneous, but also an open, class. [Examples of recent coinage.] Their function is analysed in detail, derivations from them given, and an attempt is made to account for the denasalization of the nasalized vowel in the derived words. Echo-word phonology is extrapolated to larger subsets of French. [Examples, and two appendices on common terms and proper names.]

**440 ADN AJ AVD**


# GERMAN

**73–14    Droescher, W. O.** /ə/ kontra /ɐ/. [/ə/ versus /ɒ/.] *Zielsprache Deutsch* (Munich), **1**/1972, 37–40.

Two additional vowel phonemes must now be recognized in German. In uninflected forms phonemic /ɐ/ appears after closed vowels or representing written -*er* in prepositions and adverbs. In inflected forms /ɐ/ appears as a phonetic variant of the phoneme /r/. Instances of /r/ after an open vowel have a phonetic variant /ɐ/ which may be regional and colloquial. Further research on this is needed and acceptable variants should be included in a dictionary of pronunciation.

**430 AJ ALG**

**73–15    Folsom, Marvin H.** Kriterien zur Abgrenzung der Modalverben. [Criteria for deciding what are modal verbs.] *Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (Leipzig), **9**, 3 (1972), 148–51.

According to Helbig's criteria there are three groups of auxiliary verbs. Among these are the accepted modal verbs: *dürfen, können, mögen, müssen, sollen, wollen.* Helbig also claimed that the following verbs behave like modals and mostly have meanings similar to the modals: *anstehen, belieben, brauchen, gedenken, pflegen, scheinen, wissen, bleiben, drohen, machen, suchen, verstehen.* The following criteria for modals should be applied: (1) universal distribution, that is, they can be used with any following infinitive, (2) inability to be split off from the main verb. Thus, *er hat nicht in die Stadt gehen dürfen* is acceptable, but *er hat nicht gedurft* (or *dürfen*) *in die Stadt* (*zu*) *gehen* is not, (3) the possibility of forming a Perfect construction, eg *er hat nicht kommen können,* (4) use of *es* or *das* as propredicate, eg *sie wollte nachdenken und sie konnte es nicht,* (5) use with a phrase expressing movement without an infinitive, eg *er darf ins Kino.* By these criteria, only *brauchen* comes into the category of accepted modal verbs.                    **430 AK**

**73–16    Harweg, Roland.** Reduzierte Rede. [Reduced speech.] *Linguistics* (The Hague), **80** (1972), 44–55.

The author defines items of the type *der und der* (for example, *du brauchst nur zu sagen: 'Der und der schickt mich...'*) within the area of the distinction between direct and indirect speech. He discusses the function of items of this type and determines the limits on their grammaticality, distinguishing them from indeterminate expressions of the type *jemand.* [Examples.]                    **430 AK**

**73–17    Kopetzky v. Rechtperg, Hedwig.** Zur Übersetzung deutscher 'Füllwörter' ins Englische. [Translating into English words used to accentuate or round off meaning.] *Lebende Sprachen* (Munich), **17**, 4 (1972), 103–5.

Words like *aber, denn, doch, eben, gelt, halt, schon, wohl* have been called *Flickwörter* or particles. As the group consists chiefly of adverbs and interjections, with some prepositions and conjunctions, this is a misleading classification and *Füllwörter* is suggested as a preferable term. With such words, stress and intonation add much to the different shades of meaning. [Fourteen *Füllwörter* are given, each with at least three examples.]    **430 ARG 420**

# ITALIAN

**73–18    Cârstea, Mihaela.** Ancora su alcuni costrutti 'verbo + verbo all'infinito' nell'italiano contemporaneo. [Further comments on some constructions of the type: 'verb + infinitive' in contemporary Italian.] *Revue roumaine de linguistique* (Bucharest), **17**, 1 (1972), 75–90.

The first part of the article explores the varying patterns which could account for the deep structure of sentences including the verbs *sentire, vedere, udire, ascoltare, guardare* when these are followed by an infinitive. The transformations which are examined mostly involve pronominalization of the nominative groups which can depend on the two verbs. The second part of the article details the 'causative' constructions which use *fare* and *lasciare*, also with a dependent infinitive and object noun groups. The author comments on and, in some cases, refutes suggestions made by V. Lo Cascio in *Strutture pronominali e verbali italiane*. Conversational and written usages are contrasted.    **450 ADN**

**73-19    Heyman, Märta.** Qualche osservazione sull'uso dei pronomi allocutivi nella lingua parlata di oggi. [Some observations on pronouns in direct address in present-day spoken Italian.] *Moderna Språk* (Saltsjö-Duvnäs), **66**, 1 (1972), 54–63.

Direct address in Italian entails a choice between *tu*, *lei*, *voi* and *loro*. This article gives examples from real-life situations, from speech in the media and from advertising. Grammarians quote usages which vary according to the period in history, the region, generation, social situation and relationship between speakers: the use of *tu* and *lei* is fairly constant but hesitation and variation occur with *voi* and *loro*. *Loro* even leads to ambiguity: *I signori chiedono se possono venire da loro*. When addressing a single person, *tu* is usually used in close relationships, in popular speech between social equals, from master to servant, and superior to inferior rank in military life. *Lei* is the common form used between non-intimates. (The transition from *lei* to *tu* is less convention-bound than in Swedish, for instance.) *Voi* is used by certain persons in certain regions, especially in the South. In addressing several persons, *voi* is always the plural of *tu*, probably also of *voi*. Contrary to usual theory, however, *loro* is by no means always the plural of *lei*, and the varying use of *voi* and *loro* is of considerable interest. Sometimes vacillation occurs even between the same speakers (for example, professor to students). Translation in print, and film-dubbing, show that *voi* always translates *vous*, whereas *you* gives either *voi* or *loro*. In advertising, *voi* is much more common than *lei* or *tu*. Modern trends indicate that the distinction between *tu* and *lei* will be retained in the coming generation, with *voi* as plural of both, and *loro* dropping out of use.

**450 AK ATD AVD**

# SPANISH

**73–20    Lozano, A. G.** Subjunctives, transformations and features in Spanish. *Hispania* (Appleton, Wis), **55,** 1 (1972), 76–90.

In previous descriptions of the Spanish subjunctive, optative and dubitative verbs have been grouped together as a class always followed by the subjunctive. Since with all [+ optative] verbs the subjunctive is obligatory whereas with [± dubitative] verbs either an indicative or a subjunctive form can occur, there is a difference in function which ought to be taken into account. Criticizing Stockwell's account of optative impersonals this analysis distinguishes, by transformations, five main categories [detailed]. Imperatives are then considered as a subset derived from the optative-imperative subjunctive, thus opposing Stockwell's view that imperatives derive from simple indicative clauses.

After similar studies of the subjunctive in simple, adverbial, adjectival and conditional clauses, sets of rules are laid down which show that the [± dubitative] features posited at the beginning must be replaced by [+ dubitative]. The latter is defined as a feature related to semantic characteristics of doubt, unreality and probability which causes subjunctives but which can be nullified under certain conditions. The contrast between this feature and [+ optative] indicates that two basic features underlie Spanish subjunctives. [Many examples are given.]                                          **460 ADF AK**

**CZECH**    *See also abstract* 73–11

**73–21    Dušková, Libuše.** The passive voice in Czech and English. *Philologica Pragensia* (Prague), **15,** 2 (1972), 93–118.

The English texts treated in a previous study (*Philologica Pragensia* 14, 3 (1971), 117–44) were duplicated for Czech to form the basis of a contrastive enquiry. Analogous sets of samples of 5,000 finite verb forms from each language were drawn equally from scientific writing, and from dialogue in plays and novels: from this corpus all the

**15**

finite passives were excerpted. The passive in each language is considered in its formal, functional and stylistic aspects. The English pattern of *to be* (or *to get*) + past particle is compared with the Czech analogue, and with the Czech use of the reflexive. [The different behaviour of the two languages with respect to the subject, object and indirect object is discussed and illustrated at length, and a comparison made with the German use of *werden*, and of *man-Sätze*.] The devices available in Czech and English for the expression of state and action, the treatment of the agent in passive clauses, word order, and the possibility of the complete suppression of the subject in Czech are also discussed in detail. [Examples.]

The stylistic distribution of the passive appears to be similar in the two languages – in both it is used predominantly in scientific writing. In Czech, however, the periphrastic passive appears to be characteristic of scientific writing, while in conversation the prevalent form is the reflexive passive. In the five samples representing different branches of science, mathematics ranked the lowest in its use of passives, followed in ascending order by linguistics, physics and the natural sciences, including medicine. [Two tables of results given.]

**491.86 AKT ANG 420**

**16**